

REMARKS

Please reconsider the present application in view of the above amendments and the following remarks. Applicant thanks the Examiner for carefully considering the present application.

Disposition of Claims

Claims 1-10 are currently pending in the present application. Claims 1 and 9 are independent. The remaining claims depend, directly or indirectly, from Claim 1. By way of this Reply, Claim 1 has been amended, Claim 9 has been canceled, and new Claim 11 has been added.

Drawings

Applicant respectfully requests the Examiner to accept the drawings filed on February 10, 2004.

Claim Amendments

Claim 1 has been amended to clarify that the second external conductor is around said second internal conductor. No new matter has been added by way of this amendment. Accordingly, withdrawal of the objection to Claim 1 is respectfully requested.

Claim 9 has been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer.

New Claim 11 has been added to further limit Claim 1 in that said first internal conductor, said first external conductor, said second internal conductor, and said second external conductor are connected to said device under test. No new matter has been added by way of this amendment as support for this amendment may be found, for example, in FIG. 3 and associated text in the present application.

Objections to the Title and Abstract

The title of the invention is objected to as being not descriptive. The title has been amended by way of this Reply. Accordingly, withdrawal of this objection is respectfully requested.

The abstract is objected to because it contains an excessive number of words. The abstract has been amended by way of this Reply. Accordingly, withdrawal of this objection is respectfully requested.

Allowable Subject Matter

Applicant thanks the Examiner for indicating that Claims 4-8 and 10 contain allowable subject matter. As discussed below, all claims are believed patentable. Accordingly, the rewriting of Claims 4-8 and 10 into independent form is deferred at this time.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 1-3 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,014,012 (“Kuboyama”). For the reasons set forth below, this rejection is respectfully traversed.

The present invention as recited in independent claim 1 is directed to a testing apparatus for testing a device. Claim 1 requires, in part, (i) a first internal conductor and a second external conductor, both for conducting a current from a first power supply unit towards the device under test; and (ii) a first external conductor and a second internal conductor, both for conducting a current from the device under test to the first power supply unit. These are clearly shown in, for example, FIG. 3 and the associated text in the Specification of the present application. Referring to FIG. 3, the first internal conductor 320a and the second external

conductor 324a are shown to carry a current, as indicated by arrows, from the first power supply unit 304a towards the device under test 350. The first external conductor 322a and the second internal conductor 326a are shown to carry a current from the device under test 350 towards the first power supply unit 304a.

In contrast, Kuboyama, which is directed to a DC biasing apparatus, discloses a second external conductor (*see*, Kuboyama, Fig. 1, the external conductor of a coaxial cable 4B) for conducting a current from a power source 3 *to a conductor 5*. The current is *not* flowing towards a device under test 2. In addition, a first external conductor (*see*, Kuboyama, Fig. 1, the external conductor of a coaxial cable 4A) conducts a current *from a conductor 5* to a power source 3. The current is *not* flowing from the device under test 2. Further, the first internal conductor and the second external conductor in Kuboyama are not connected, thus it is impossible for them both to conduct current to the device under test. Similarly, the first external conductor and the second internal conductor in Kuboyama are not connected, thus it is impossible for them both to conduct current from the device under test towards the first power supply unit.

In view of the above, Kuboyama fails to show or suggest the present invention as recited in independent Claim 1 of the present application. Thus, independent Claim 1 of the present application is patentable over Kuboyama. Dependent Claims 2 and 3 are allowable for at least the same reasons. Accordingly, withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

Conclusion

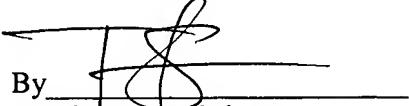
Applicant believes this reply is fully responsive to all outstanding issues and places this application in condition for allowance. If this belief is incorrect, or other issues arise,

the Examiner is encouraged to contact the undersigned or his associates at the telephone number listed below. Please apply any charges not covered, or any credits, to Deposit Account 50-0591 (Reference Number 02008/149001).

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Respectfully submitted,

By


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Attachments